



PASCAL Overview & Update

Commission on Higher Education

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About PASCAL

PASCAL is the **Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries.**

We provide essential academic content for over 239,000 students at 56 colleges and universities.

Our cost-effective, collaborative approach supports the state's goal to make higher education more affordable for South Carolina's families.

CHE was instrumental in our founding and serves as our fiscal agent.



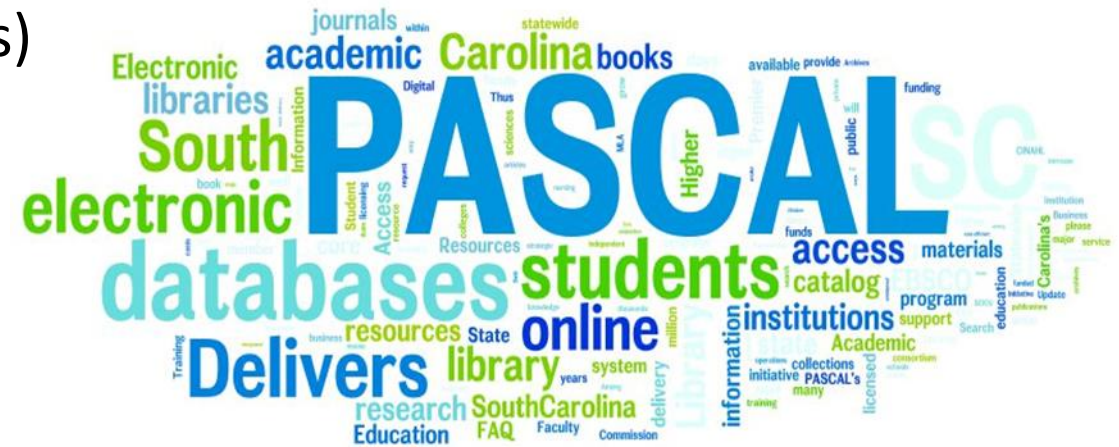
Programs & Initiatives

Key Long-Standing Programs

- Rapid Delivery System (PASCAL Delivers)
- Core Academic Databases & E-Books
- “Opt-in” Electronic Resources
- ILS Management (12 libraries)

Emerging Initiatives

- Shared Library Services Platform (55 Libraries)
- Affordable Learning
- Shared Print Management



Core Collections -

Through PASCAL libraries provide access to:

- Over 17,000 Journals
- Over 300,000 academic e-books (subscription)
- Over 2,000 purchased e-books (perpetual access for all institutions)

Statewide access to 12 million print books

Judged by standard metrics for comparing academic libraries, PASCAL would be the 6th largest academic library in the state (after Coastal Carolina) if we were a “brick & mortar” library...

Statewide Impact

PASCAL levels the playing field for students and faculty at all member institutions

- Six libraries account for 60% of the state's aggregated budget for academic libraries. 80% of South Carolina students (228,000) attend one of the other 48 institutions.
- For these students, PASCAL resources constitute a -- if not *the* -- major component of the academic resources available to them for their course of study.

Statewide Impact

Our highly cost-effective programs help libraries provide more for their students and faculty while saving money:

- Over **\$12.9 Million** in cost avoidance for core resources in FY18-19
- Over **\$138 Million** in cost avoidance since 2004



“In these tight economic times, efficient collaborative ventures like PASCAL might be seen as safety nets, ensuring that fundamental educational needs are met with maximum cost effectiveness. Longer term, a program like PASCAL can set the stage for more intensive collaboration across institutions that will promote efficiency, excellence and equity of access.”¹

¹“Leveraging Higher Education for a Stronger South Carolina,”
2009 report of the Higher Education Study Committee

Shared Library Service Platform (SLSP)

PASCAL is streamlining content delivery to students by implementing a modernized, common “library catalog.” The Shared Library Services Platform (SLSP) will:

- Replace over 30 systems from six different vendors
- Remove a costly overlay used to support print delivery
- Promote common search and access experiences throughout higher education
- Enhance library capabilities through mutual and central support
- Provide cost-efficiencies for member libraries



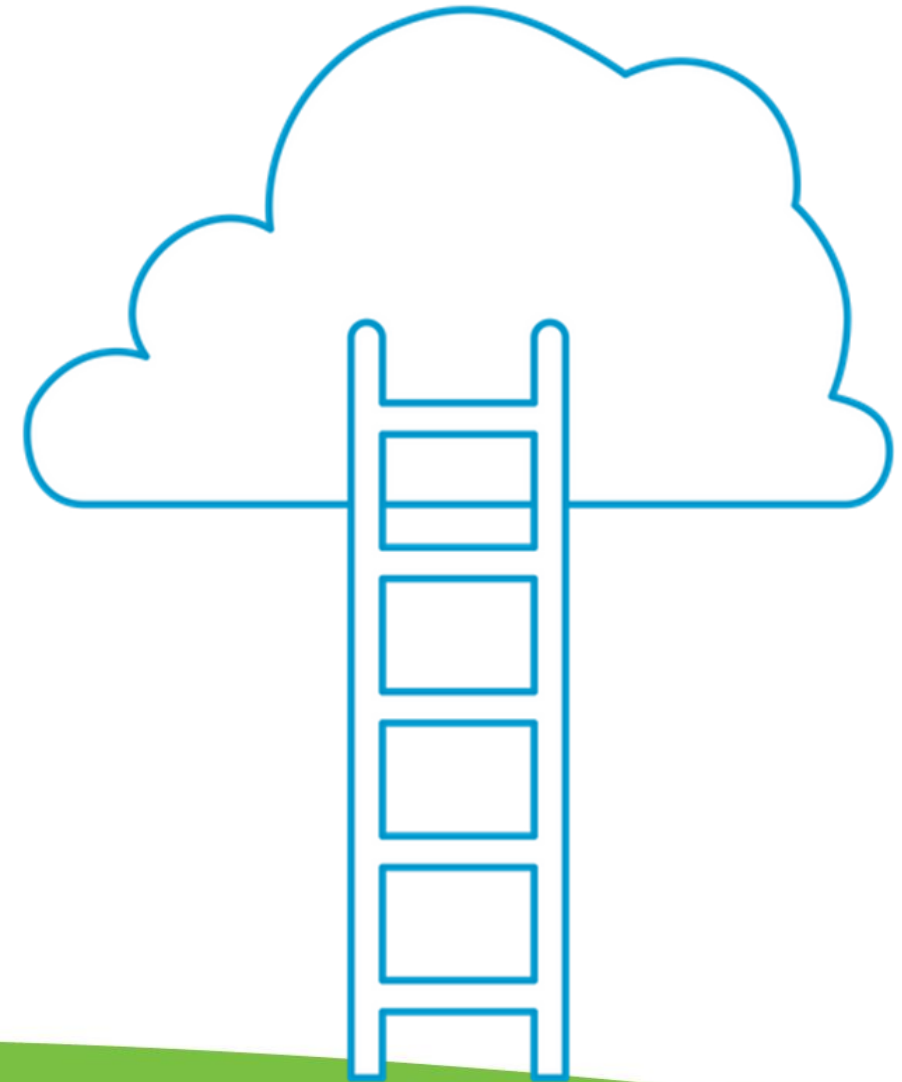
Shared Library Services Platform

PASCAL will support the one-time migration costs for all member libraries. Ongoing costs will be supported by institutions.

- \$3.5 Million in Lottery Funding for Migration
- \$1.7. Million Annual Ongoing Costs Supported through member fees
- Reduces state higher education annual costs for systems by \$200 - \$250,000/year
- Not possible without lottery funds secured through the Commission on Higher Education

SLSP Outcomes

- Affordable Modernization through Scale
- Direct Savings on Operational Costs
- Efficiencies through Statewide Collaboration
 - Shared management of e-resources
 - Shared workflows
 - Shared instruction tools
 - Affordable Learning
 - Collaborative collection management



Why Affordable Learning?

- Since 1978, college textbook costs have increased 812%. That means that textbook prices have increased at 3.2 times the rate of inflation.*
- **65%** of students report not purchasing a textbook due to cost. Of those, 94% were concerned that doing so would hurt their grade. **



*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Student PIRGs

Why Libraries?

Libraries and library consortia are in a unique position:

- Expertise in copyright, licensing, and the publishing market
- Strategic position as a hub for collaboration with many units across campus
- Positioned to “connect the dots” supporting affordable learning -
licensing, print reserve copies, open educational resources (OER)

PASCAL is positioned to provide centralized support and resources to expand affordable learning statewide.

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SCALE – SC Affordable Learning



The PASCAL Board of Directors established a task force and allocated \$75,000 for the initiative to build awareness, and explore, pilot, and evaluate approaches over three years.

The task force launched SCALE (South Carolina Affordable Learning), a statewide initiative that seeks to reduce the overall cost of higher education for students by promoting the use of quality low-cost and no-cost learning materials.

SCALE is now a part of the Open Textbook Network, a national collaborative.

Pilots have demonstrated a demand and program expansion can be anticipated over the next year using lottery funds.

Collaborative Collections



A shared platform increases the capacity of PASCAL libraries to easily collaborate on collection management and development, resulting in a more comprehensive and diverse statewide research collection. This is true for both the digital and print material.

Collaborative management of print collections can free central campus space, reduce costs, protect scarce material and enhance the availability of material statewide.

Shared Collection & Storage Investigation

Two key recommendations from a July 2019 study of South Carolina's academic library print collections:

- There is a statewide need for a print-storage strategy
- There could be benefits to a central storage facility

The project was funded through a [Mellon Foundation](#) planning grant, conducted by the University of South Carolina Libraries, in conjunction with PASCAL.


Shared Collection & Storage Investigation

A PASCAL task force will further investigate and respond to the study's recommendations in 2019-20. They are tasked with identifying:

- Short and long-term solutions for addressing needs
- Governance and business model options for collaboration
- Deeper analytic requirements necessary to develop a best-practice based statewide collections strategy


PASCAL Funding

For the most part, electronic content is licensed by libraries on a subscription basis – a recurring expense, as are support costs for infrastructure like the Shared Library Service Platform.

- PASCAL functions as core utility service for all of South Carolina's students, particularly those 80% attending the 48 less well endowed institutions.
 - Libraries contribute \$1.3 million to pay for operations and subscriptions
 - Lottery funds have been used for significant one-time purchases, capital investments and support the e-book program through multi-year subscriptions
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PASCAL Funding

\$1.5 million recurring to support core subscription content and infrastructure costs has been a standing budget request by the Commission for PASCAL.

- Recurring funds would solidify and expand opportunities for greater efficiencies in service and support the smaller institutions.
 - Historically, CHE has supported this request, but has also worked with the institutions to secure the program a high place in the lottery proviso as a (very successful) fallback.
 - Thank you on behalf of our state's students and faculty!
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Thank You!

Visit us online at:

pascalsc.org

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